



Insight

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Wishing INSCOM happy holidays

The INSCOM family remains fully engaged worldwide this holiday season as part of the "Army at War" – our third consecutive wartime holiday period since the Global War on Terrorism was initiated following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. As I write this note, almost 500 INSCOM Soldiers and civilians are deployed in harm's way with two large contingents about to deploy. That's in addition to our significant, steady state brigade, group, detachment presence overseas. The word busy has taken on a new meaning since 9-11. Our Army is in motion – eight of 10 divisions will rotate into or out of combat in Southwest Asia over the next five months, a level of activity not seen since World War II.

But what's most striking is the rock-solid professionalism, selfless dedication and innovative talent that our people have brought to every task and mission. The full engagement of INSCOM personnel of all ranks in this critical endeavor is nothing short of breathtaking. This is a team sport – every INSCOM member is in the fight, regardless of physical placement. Tough problems are identified with full candor, solutions developed and fixes applied as a matter of (important) routine – no drama, just effective problem solving as an extended, cohesive unit. Feedback from Army component and task force commanders is consistently positive.

Each INSCOM member should take pride in our significant, collective contributions to winning the nation's war on terrorism and preparing for other contingencies. I couldn't be more proud to lead INSCOM during this critically important period – we must win this fight. There is no alternative. We recognize the cost associated with this effort – we've lost friends and comrades over the last two years, and many of INSCOM's own will spend this holiday season away from



DA photo

family and loved ones. But as this past week's capture of Saddam Hussein clearly showed, we are making meaningful progress and shaping a better, safer world of freedom and opportunity for our children. Success is assured as long as we remain focused and steady.

Thanks for what each of you has contributed to the Army and nation this past year – America could not have asked for more. Spend as much time as possible with your family and loved ones – for some this will be a "virtual" experience. Finally, please take extra care on the roads – we can't afford to lose a single team member to injury or worse.

Maj. Gen. John F. Kimmons

NCOs serve up Army tradition

by Sgt. Patricia Jaques
66th MI Group

The noncommissioned officers of the 105th MI Battalion, Bad Aibling Station, Germany, took part in a time-honored military tradition Nov. 14: the tactical dining-in.

The event was open to all local NCOs and also drew participation from both the Navy and Air Force.

Sgt. Maj. Charles Wilkinson served as the president of the mess, while Sgt. Liam Burke did his part to keep things moving as "Mr. Vice." Members of the official party included the 66th MI Group commander, Col. Gus E. Greene, 66th MI Group command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Faron D. Barton, 105th MI Battalion commander, Lt. Col. Michael Childers, Bad Aibling Station commander, Col. Susan Huggler and Bad Aibling Station command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Lori Brown.

Greene, Huggler and Childers graciously accepted the honorary ranks of staff sergeant and sergeant and subsequently obeyed the lawful orders of their sergeants major.

The focus of the event, according to Wilkinson, was "training, Army history and to serve as a reminder of our comrades who are now serving in the face of danger."

While the NCOs began the evening respectfully observing the more formal dining-in traditions, such as the posting of the colors and the invocation, they were quick to take part in the informal portion as well.

Under the watchful eye of Sgt. Leah Kirkland, who energetically extolled the history and virtues of the grog while serving as brew mistress, representatives of the 105th MI Battalion, Navy, Air Force and the 108th MI Group contributed



courtesy photo

Sgt. Maj. Charles Wilkinson, president of the mess, shows the 105th MI Battalion how to have a little fun.

liberally to the grog bowl with a diverse selection of alcoholic beverages, fruit juices and mouth washes.

As president of the mess, Wilkinson cheerfully doled out punishments to soldiers who failed to observe proper protocol or caused a disruption. Possible punishments included drinking from the grog, being forced to serenade others or dance for "Mr. President."

NCOs were also required to prepare humorous skits for the amusement of "Mr. President" and the official party.

"This was an event that needed to happen. It provided a focus on professionalism and yet provided a bit of fun during a stressful time for the 105th as we begin our transition to Darmstadt," said Childers.

Sgt. Dena Perry agreed.

"I think the dining-in was good because it gave the NCOs a chance to get together and relax, regardless of rank," explained Perry.

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Chief, Public Affairs Office.....Deborah Y. Parker
Editor.....Brian Murphy
Graphic Designer.....James L. Hubbard

513th Soldiers learn new skills

by Spc. Leslie Pearson
513th MI Brigade

Just when everyone thought they were getting the hang of the regular routine of Common Task Training, three new skills were added to the list. CTT, the common tasks Soldiers must be able to perform throughout their military careers, help ensure Soldiers are prepared for the battlefield.

Employing hand grenades, reacting to unexploded ordnance hazards, and locating mines by using a non-metallic probing device were added to the regular list of critical skills every Soldier is required to know.

Led by a group of high speed NCOs, about 40 Soldiers in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 513th Military Intelligence Brigade, swarmed Barton Field at various stations to learn the new tasks and to review a familiar one—evaluating a casualty.

According to 1st Sgt. Tony Johnson, the company's first sergeant, Soldiers in the company are required to qualify in CTT once a year, and the exercise was intended to prepare for the upcoming evaluation.

Sgt. Blaine Douglas, operations NCO, explained how to throw a hand grenade and hit a target without exposing oneself for more than 5 seconds. The Soldiers took turns observing the target, establishing their distance between the throwing



photo by Spc. Leslie Pearson

Sgt. Nykea Smart, command group NCO, 513th MI Brigade, shows Soldiers the correct way to react to unexploded ordnance hazards during CTT.

position and the target area and throwing a grenade at shoulder level.

"By practicing, anyone can develop their throwing proficiency to a point where their reaction to a target becomes immediate," Douglas said.

Sgt. Nykea Smart, command group NCO, showed everyone how to react to Unexploded Ordinance Hazards.

According to Smart, the four types of UXO's are: dropped, placed, thrown and projected. Bombs, dispensers and submunitions are considered dropped UXO's while projectiles, mortars, rockets, guided missiles and rifle grenades are considered projected. Mines fall under the

placed category and all types of grenades are considered thrown, she said.

"One of the most important things to remember about a UXO is to never strike, jar or touch it because that can trigger it," Smart said. "We need to be on the constant watch for UXO's because we're always under some kind of attack."

Spc. Rocky Natividad, who recently returned from a deployment to Kuwait, said the training was essential for Soldiers to know because he remembers several situations when he came in contact with UXO's during training or when his convoy would stop.

"Even though I've had this

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type of training in the past, it's always good to reacquaint yourself with it for future deployments," he said. "Adding the training to the CTT is a good way to keep Soldiers familiar with the different types of things they'll see when they're deployed especially since we go to places like Iraq and Afghanistan."

With the assistance of Spc. Jason Keith, Sgt. Steven D'Angelo, senior civilian advisor NCOIC, demonstrated how to locate mines by using a non-metallic probing device without causing activation.

When Soldiers come across something suspicious, they should get low to the ground and take the blunt end of a non-metallic probing device and, inserting it at an angle, dig away at the soil until the mine is exposed, D'Angelo said.

"Typically you only have to clear a 3-foot wide area —enough for the troops to pass through," he said. "You should only clip a tripwire that has some slack otherwise it could set it off."

One of the few differences when in Mission Oriented Protective Posture (MOPP) gear is to keep the sleeves down, he said.

"Taking off all jewelry and rolling up your sleeves increases your sensitivity to tripwires,"

he added.

Lastly, Sgt. Brendan Dohaney, brigade schools NCO, demonstrated the proper techniques in evaluating a casualty. The Soldiers reviewed how to check for responsiveness, breathing, bleeding, shock, fractures, burns and head injuries, and then seek medical aid.

According to Dohaney, no additional changes have been implemented, but this particular task is something that every Soldier needs to be proficient in.

"Quick and accurate evaluations are critical in the life-saving process," Dohaney said. "The Soldiers know what we are teaching is important, and they stayed focused throughout the training."

"Adding the training to the CTT is a good way to keep Soldiers familiar with the different types of things they'll see when they're deployed."

*Spc. Rocky Natividad,
513th MI Brigade*



photo by Spc. Leslie Pearson

Spc. Jason Keith, paralegal, 513th MI Brigade, demonstrated how to locate mines by using a non-metallic probing device without causing activation.

The importance of PLDC

by Staff Sgt. Brent Hunt
704th MI Brigade

One might think the Primary Leadership Development Course is just a step up from Basic Training, but for two soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 704th Military Intelligence Brigade, it was a time of learning the detailed steps of becoming a non-commissioned officer.

Spc. Franklin Pipes, standard installation and division personnel system (SIDPERS) clerk and Spc. Jeremy Herrera, signal intelligence analyst, attended PLDC at Fort Knox, Ky., June 30 to July 31 where they became highly trained Soldiers of the NCO world.

Each soldier was evaluated for their leadership skills, but Pipes was afforded the opportunity to become the student first sergeant for a week during his time at PLDC.

Pipes also received the PLDC Leadership Award. This is awarded to the Soldier who demonstrates outstanding leadership skills throughout the course. They are nominated by their peers and go before the commandant and a board made up of cadre.



courtesy photo

Herrera (left) and Pipes successfully completed PLDC earlier this year.

“It was interesting learning leadership styles at different levels from team leader to first sergeant,” said Pipes.

Pipes and Herrera both made the Commandant’s List. This list is made up of the top twenty-percent of the class who did not have any counseling statements and had no

failures in any testing area. Both Soldiers agree that the training was good.

“It was a good experience to lead other soldiers of your same rank,” added Herrera. “It gives you a little more respect for those put in leadership positions. You know where they are coming from.”

Reserves get better benefits

The Department of Defense announced that effective immediately, reserve component personnel and their family members with ID cards have unlimited access to commissaries. The Department of Defense release at www.defenselink.mil/releases/2003/nr20031124-0690.html, spells out the details, but those now authorized to shop in the commissary include members of the ready reserve and members of the retired reserve who have a uniformed services ID card. For more information, log on to www.commissaries.com.

Christmas INSCOM style



Maj. Gen. John F. Kimmons, commanding general, U.S. Army Intelligence and Security Command welcomes Santa to the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony at the Nolan Bldg., Fort Belvoir, Va., Dec. 10.



The "12 Days of Christmas," as sung by the INSCOM workforce.



photos by Bob Bills

Each section of Headquarters, INSCOM made an ornament to put on the Christmas tree in the Nolan Bldg. lobby.

AFAP conference makes a difference

by Yolande Johnson-Spinnato
INSCOM Personnel and Administration

Three INSCOM delegates participated in the Army's 20th annual Army Family Action Plan conference hosted by the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center (CFSC) in Alexandria, Va., Nov. 17 - 21. The AFAP grassroots process has identified issues affecting Soldiers' and families' lives to the Army senior leadership since 1983. Over the past 20 years, AFAP has raised over 542 issues resulting in 82 changes to legislation, 130 revised policies and 140 improved programs or services.

Ron Gunter, of INSCOM personnel and administration office and retired military member, said, "AFAP is a mechanism that affords every Soldier and family member the opportunity to make a difference. An annual forum which empowers all military personnel and their families with the chance to improve the quality of life for our soldiers today as well as the quality of life for our great Army of tomorrow."

Sgt. Maj. Renita Cooper, INSCOM personnel and administration, also attended the conference.

"This is my second year participating at the DA level and it was an awesome experience. AFAP does work, and is one of the most important processes the Army has with relation to well-being. Every issue is important, every opinion matters and things do get changed. What's key is not how long it takes to resolve, but the end result," Cooper said.

A total of 103 delegates representing every demographic segment of the Army attended from installations and major Army commands, and evaluated 104 well-being issues submitted from AFAP conferences across the Army. Delegates were assigned to one of eight workgroups - employment, entitlement I and II, family support, force support, logistical support, and medical/dental I and II. Each workgroup was given the task of identifying its top three issues to be presented at the report out. Delegates worked tirelessly at identifying and prioritizing their issues. The next day all issues were briefed to Gen. George W. Casey, Jr., vice chief of staff

of the Army. Delegates then voted for the top five from the conference, the six most critical active AFAP issues and the four most valuable community services.

Personal financial concerns are this year's top priority for Soldiers and their families. All the top five new AFAP issues directly relate to pay benefits and personal expenses. Survivor Benefit Plan offset headed the list of new issues followed by mortgage relief for mobilized Reserve Component servicemembers and death benefits for stillborn infants (tied for second), lodging and subsistence for family members of hospitalized service members and weight allowance for permanent change of station moves.

The critical active AFAP issues selected were distribution of Montgomery G.I. Bill benefits to dependents, in-state tuition status for family members residing in the state on military orders, review of the pay table to determine if base-level pay is sufficient, amending the enlisted portion of the permanent change of station weight allowance table to more closely match officer weight allowances, authorizing and funding dislocation allowances for retiring service members, and awarding household goods contracts to moving companies based on their performance as well as their cost. Medical/Dental, the Army Family Action Plan, Army Community Service, and the commissary were identified by the delegates as the most valuable services.

"We find ourselves in the AFAP 20th year supporting an Army at war. At no time in my recent memory has a program like AFAP been more important to the overall successes of our Army," said Casey during his final remarks.

"AFAP does work, and is one of the most important processes the Army has with relation to well-being."

*Sgt. Maj. Renita Cooper,
INSCOM personnel and
administration*



513th MI Brigade Soldiers pose with Kuwaiti National and United Kingdom officers during the Christmas Ball.

513th, friends have a ball

story and photos by Spc. Felicia Thompson
513th Military Intelligence Brigade

Soldiers, family members, and friends of the 513th Military Intelligence Brigade gathered for the brigades annual Christmas Ball held at the Gordon Club, Fort Gordon, Ga., Dec. 11.

Special guests included Kuwaiti National and United Kingdom officers.

The evening's events included dinner, dancing and a presentation displaying Soldiers supporting Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom while deployed to Southwest Asia. The presentation also depicted Soldiers and family members involved in unit activities at Fort Gordon.

Col. Jon M. Jones, the 513th MI Brigade commander, gave words of thanks and praise to the Soldiers and their families for all their efforts and support for the brigades' war mission while deployed and stateside.

"The 513th MI Brigade is still doing our best to protect our Soldiers, our allies, our brethren in Iraq," Jones said. "We are here to take a break (from our daily mission requirements)."



A medley of baked chicken, prime rib, and a variety of vegetables were available during the event.